



City of Fayette

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Fayette, Mississippi 39069

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Rogers W. King
Mayor

Hattie R. Davis
City Clerk

Alderpersons:

Kenneth E. Coffie * Arnold Clark, Jr. * Cedric W. Doss
Claudine Middleton * Vernie Washington

September 12, 2011

The Honorable Julius Genachowski, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

The AT&T and T-Mobile merger represents a major step toward achieving the goal of ensuring that all Americans have affordable access to robust and reliable broadband products and services. By expanding access to broadband, the merger will bring new economic opportunities to rural communities that have been disconnected from the benefits of our 21st century information economy.

As mayor of Fayette, Mississippi, I am excited about the economic opportunities that will be created by the AT&T and T-Mobile merger. Bringing these companies together will result in \$8 billion in infrastructure improvements, which will create good paying jobs while expanding access to broadband technology to an additional 55 million Americans.

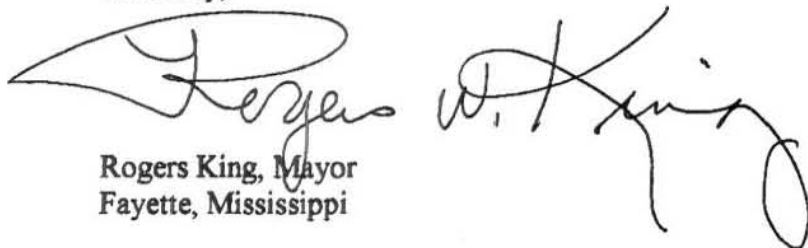
I see this is a golden opportunity to bring better high-speed Internet connectivity to our area. The National Broadband map consistently ranks our area near the very bottom of the state in terms of broadband technology and Internet speed.

A February, 2010 report by the NAACP and the Center for Social Inclusion found areas without Internet access are disproportionately likely to be places where people of color are a majority of the population. Moreover, they found there is a strong connection between Internet accessibility and job opportunities. Sure enough, areas without Internet service rank at the bottom when it comes to employment.

With unemployment at 19.2% in Jefferson County, we cannot afford to be disconnected from the revolutionary changes taking place in the economy. Moreover, the citizens of our community deserve equal access to the educational opportunities, health care services, and economic development programs widely available to residents of urban and suburban neighborhoods who have access to high-speed Internet services.

By bringing better broadband services to rural Southwest Mississippi, the AT&T and T-Mobile merger will make it possible for local residents to participate actively in the 21st century information economy. We look forward to the economic opportunities that the merger will bring to our community and urge you to support the AT&T and T-Mobile proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rogers W. King". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Rogers King, Mayor
Fayette, Mississippi

cc: Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell